

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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NORFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MOPS, IR, KU, SY

SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS IN IRAQ'S ORDER OF BATTLE

REF: A) BAGHDAD 174 (NOTAL), B) LONDON 2476 (NOTAL),
C) BAGHDAD 283 (NOTAL)

1. STIMULATED BY REFERENCED REPORTING, DEPARTMENT AND CIA
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ANALYSTS HAVE REVIEWED THE IRAQ ARMY'S ORDER OF BATTLE AND
DRAWN THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

A) THE IRAQI ARMY IS NOT RPT NOT PRESENTLY IN AN AGGRES-
SIVE POSTURE TOWARD ANY OF HER NEIGHBORS;

B) REGULAR ARMY UNITS ARE NOT RPT NOT STATIONED ALONG THE

IRAQ-KUWAITI BORDER (REFS A AND B). THESE ARE PARAMILITARY POLICE UNITS WITH DATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ONE POLICE BATTALION WAS MOVED TO THE RUMALAH OIL FIELDS IN AUGUST 1976 AND ANOTHER WAS MOVED TO SAFWAN FIELDS ON THE BORDER IN SEPTEMBER 1976;

C) CERTAIN ARMY UNITS RESPONDED TO THE FEBRUARY 1977 CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN KARBALA AND NAJAF (REF C);

D) THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THE ARMY IS CALLING UP SOME RESERVES AND IS MAKING PREPARATIONS TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN IRAQ AGAINST THE PESKY KURDISH REBELLION. WEATHER SHOULD PERMIT ARMY OPERATIONS AROUND MARCH OR APRIL;

E) IRREGULAR, PARA-MILITARY UNITS, SUCH AS POLICE BRIGADES, NUMBERING SOME APPROXIMATELY 45,000 MEN ARE ALREADY DEPLOYED IN THE KURDISH AREAS.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE PRESENT ORDER OF BATTLE FOR THE IRAQI ARMY, FIGURES FOR TROOPS, TANKS AND APC'S ASSUME THAT THE UNIT IS AT FULL-STRENGTH:

A) SOUTH

1) BASRAH/ZUBAYR--FIFTH MECHANIZED DIVISION, 13,000 TROOPS TROOPS, 240 TANKS, 320 APC;

B) CENTRAL

1) DIWANIYAH/AMARAH/NASSIRAYAH/HILLAH--FIRST MECHANIZED SECRET

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DIVISION REINFORCED WITH AN EXTRA BRIGADE, 17,000 TROOPS, 190 TANKS, 460 APC; ELEMENTS OF THIS UNIT RESPONDED DURING FEBRUARY'S CIVIL DISTURBANCES AT NAJAF AND KARBALA;

2) BAGHDAD/SUWARIAH--TENTH ARMoured DIVISION, 12,000 TROOPS, 335 TANKS, 230 APC;--REPUBLICAN GUARDS BRIGADE, 4,000 TROOPS, 48 TANKS, 144 APC;

3) TIKRIT/RAMADI/MUSAYYIB--THIRD ARMoured DIVISION, 12,000 TROOPS, 335 TANKS, 230 APC; ELEMENTS OF THIS UNIT RESPONDED DURING FEBRUARY'S CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN MUSAYYIB;

C) EAST

1) KANNAQIN/JULLULA/MANSURIAH/BA-QUBAH--SIXTH ARMoured DIVISION, 12,000 TROOPS, 335 TANKS, 230 APC;

2) KUT--SPECIAL FORCES, NORMALLY THE HEADQUARTERS OF TWO BRIGADES, BUT ONE BRIGADE OF 4,000 MEN IS PRESENTLY STATIONED IN KIRKUK IN RESPONSE TO THE KURDISH SITUATION;

D) NORTH

1) KIRKUK--SECOND MOUNTAIN DIVISION, 15,000 TROOPS, 48 TANKS, MOST OF THIS DIVISION IS PRESENTLY STATIONED IN IRBIL, PROBABLY IN RESPONSE TO THE KURDISH SITUATION;

2) SULAYMANIAH--SEVENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, 15,000 TROOPS, 48 TANKS;

3) IRBIL--EIGHTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, 15,000 TROOPS, 48 TANKS, THIS UNIT HAS DEPLOYED OUT OF IRBIL PROPER AND MOVED INTO ADJOINING MOUNTAINOUS AREAS IN RESPONSE TO THE KURDISH SITUATION;

4) MOSUL--FOURTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, 15,000 TROOPS, 48 TANKS.

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3. TOTALS FOR ABOVE DEPLOYMENTS GIVE 134,000 TROOPS, 1,675 TANKS, AND 1,614 APC'S. THE OFFICIAL USG ESTIMATE OF THE IRAQI ARMY IS 160,000 TROOPS, 1,450 TANKS AND 1,500 APC'S. THE ABOVE DEPLOYMENT TOTALS DO NOT INCLUDE THE SUPPORT TROOPS WHICH THE OFFICIAL ESTIMATE ASSUMES. THE DIFFERENCES IN EQUIPMENT LEVELS REPRESENT ASSUMED FULL STRENGTH COMPARED TO EXTRAPOLATED ESTIMATES OF EQUIPMENT IN OPERATING CONDITION.

4. THE IRAQI ARMY ALSO HAS A GENERAL ARTILLERY HEAD-QUARTERS AT KHAN MAHAWIL WHICH COMMANDS HEAVY ARTILLERY AND GUIDED ANTI-TANK MISSILE TROOPS.

5. IRREGULAR, PARA-MILITARY UNITS CONSIST OF ELEVEN POLICE BRIGADES, TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY 19,000 MEN; FIVE BORDER GUARD BRIGADES, TOTALLING 10,000 MEN, AND 10 ARMY RESERVE BRIGADES WITH 18,000 MEN. MOST OF THE UNITS PRESENTLY STATIONED IN THE BORDER AREAS, AND ALSO ON THE KUWAITI BORDER, AS NOTED IN 1.(B), ARE POLICE AND BORDER UNITS, NOT THE ARMY.

VANCE

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